

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the binder resin (A) for a toner as described in claim 1 comprising the following processes (I), (II) and (III) in this order:

Process (I): A process comprising melt-mixing a carboxyl group-containing vinyl resin (B) obtained by copolymerizing a vinyl monomer selected from styrene based compounds, acrylic esters, methacrylic esters, diesters of an unsaturated dibasic acid, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-substituted acrylamide, and N-substituted methacrylamide, and a vinyl monomer having a carboxyl group selected from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, maleic anhydride, maleic acid, fumaric acid, cinnamic acid, and mono esters of an unsaturated dibasic acid and an epoxy group-containing vinyl resin (C) obtained by copolymerizing a vinyl monomer selected from styrene based compounds, acrylic esters, methacrylic esters, diesters of an unsaturated dibasic acid, acrylonitrile, methacrylonitrile, acrylamide, methacrylamide, N-substituted acrylamide, and N-substituted methacrylamide, and a vinyl monomer having an epoxy group selected from glycidyl acrylate, β-methylglycidyl acrylate, glycidyl methacrylate, and β-

methylglycidyl methacrylate at a temperature ( $T_R$ ) satisfying  $120^{\circ}\text{C} \leq T_R \leq 230^{\circ}\text{C}$  in a twin screw extruder for the reaction;

Process (II): A process comprising introducing water into the twin screw extruder, and mixing water with the resin composition obtained in the Process (I) for 0.1 second to 5 second under the conditions satisfying a pressure ( $P_{\text{Ex}}$ ) of  $1 \text{ MPa} \leq P_{\text{Ex}} \leq 2.7 \text{ MPa}$  and a temperature ( $T_M$ ) of  $120^{\circ}\text{C} \leq T_M \leq 230^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; and

Process (III): A process comprising reducing the pressure inside the twin screw extruder for removing water and the volatile component.

4. (Original) The method for producing the binder resin (A) for a toner according to claim 3, wherein the carboxyl group-containing vinyl resin (B) has a glass transition temperature ( $T_{gB}$ ) of  $40^{\circ}\text{C} \leq T_{gB} \leq 70^{\circ}\text{C}$ , and the epoxy group-containing vinyl resin (C) has a weight-average molecular weight ( $C_{Mw}$ ) of  $10,000 < C_{Mw} \leq 100,000$  and has the epoxy equivalent ( $C_{EP}$ ) of  $1,000 \text{ g/Eq} \leq C_{EP} \leq 20,000 \text{ g/Eq}$ .

5. (New) A binder resin (A) for a toner obtained by the process of claim 3, wherein the content ( $A_{ls}$ ) of a gel component is  $1 \text{ mass \%} \leq A_{ls} \leq 50 \text{ mass \%}$  and the content ( $A_{vo}$ ) of a volatile component in the resin is  $A_{vo} \leq 200 \text{ ppm}$ .

6. (New) A toner for electrophotography comprising the binder resin (A) for a toner as described in claim 5.